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LUKE A. KILYK* (PA, DC)
LEONARD D. BOWERSOX
JASBIR SINGH
MATTHEW T. GILL
RALPH T. WEBB* (DC, TX, LA)
SUSANNE M. HOPKINS
J. MARK KONIECZNY* (MA)53 A East Lee Street
WARRENTON, VA 20186TEL: (540) 428-1701
FAC.: (540) 428-1720
(540) 428-1721FAIRFAX OFFICE
3603-E Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030Email: lkilyk@kbpattentlaw.com
Website: http://www.kbpattentlaw.comOf Counsel:

WILLIAM CHARLES JAMISON

*Admitted only in states indicated


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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: April 22, 2005

TO: Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549
For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS
AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME
Our Ref.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)

FROM: Luke A. Kilyk, Esq. 

FAC. TEL. NO.: 1-703-872-9306

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 26

Items Attached: Amendment - 25 pages

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 1-703-872-9306 on April 22, 2005.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michaluk)	Examiner: Lois L. Zheng
)	
Application Number: 10/042,549)	Group Art Unit: 1742
)	
Filed: January 9, 2002)	Confirmation No.: 5470
)	
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01))	

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 22, 2005

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 25, 2005 in the above-identified application, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response, thus making the response due on or before April 25, 2005.

Amendments to the Claims begin at page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin at page 12 of this paper.